



Clay County Fire Chief's Association

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11th, 2017, 1900 hours, Sabin Fire Dept

1. Call to Order – 1900 hrs

2. ARMER Update – Bryan Green or Brian Zastoupil

Moorhead, Ulen & Hitterdahl have yet to start switching over to ARMER. Must order radios by December 31st to obtain 40% off pricing under the contract. The Fire VHF infrastructure should be decommissioned around January of 2018. We also discussed some of the talkgroup choices we can make with ARMER.

3. ARMER Radio Training – Bryan Green

CCCOS and Moorhead Fire can assist with the hands-on training. Reminder that all staff need to complete the online training.

4. Emergency Manager Update – Bryan Green

Glyndon Fire did some training at Buffalo State Park. They found an ARMER dead spot in the park. They also discovered some effective search procedures and methods to improve command.

Moorhead Fire had a training on a natural gas leak on the main supply pipeline in town. We found that we need to have better accounting for who has and has not been evacuated. We also opened the County EOC and worked with Excel and Viking Gas. The National Weather Service will also be on ARMER after January 1st to assist with information flow during an incident.

Just a reminder with the Ulen wind storm to keep track of hours during a large incident as it can be reimbursable via the state.

5. Alphanumeric Paging Issues – Jeff Wallin

Moorhead reported that they discovered they are experiencing a 7% error rate on the alphanumeric pagers. New World is working on the problem. Brian Zastoupil reported that for rural agencies, dispatchers check a dedicated pager at the console to verify that the page goes out and they will re-page if their pager does not. We discussed several related issues. We also discussed the frequency of test pages and decided to keep things as they are.

6. M|State Training Update – Jeff Wallin

Two tentative schedules are out for fire classes. The weekend fire school will be in Detroit Lakes on March 10th & 11th. MBFTE funds will be half of what they were last year.

7. Box Alarms – Working Group

Bob, Jeff & Justin met last month and discussed what we would want. We will each need to define maps for each of our departments for who the next closest department will be in each area of your jurisdiction. A 1st alarm will get 2 closest fire departments, a 2nd alarm will bring the next 2 departments and salvation army, a 3rd alarm will page all departments in the County. Justin is working on Mark Sloan with Clay County GIS to help get the map created. A proposed map outlining the next closest departments will be created and sent to each department for approval or revisions. We will be finalizing this map at the January Meeting.

8. Round Table

Moorhead – We will be looking to do some mutual aid training with the other departments in the County in 2018, and plan to continue that annually. The Haz-Mat team will be in place for the next 5 years.

Hawley – They had a recent house fire where the police department opened up the garage doors prior to the fire department arrival. So, just a reminder to other departments to work with everyone to let them know not to ventilate structures before we're ready.

Meeting adjourned at 2023.

People Attending:

CCSO – Bryan Green
Dilworth – Mark Empting
Felton – Kevin Pukulla
Glyndon – Dillon Simmons
Hawley – Brad Eldred, Justin Martin
M-State – Rick Loveland
Moorhead – Gary Larsen, Chad Stangeland, Jeff Wallin
RRRDC – Brian Zastoupil
Sabin-Elmwood – Cad Byram
Ulen – Nick Theis

Future Meeting Dates & Locations:

1/10/18 Ulen
4/11/18 Barnesville
7/11/18 Dilworth
10/10/18 Felton
1/9/19 Glyndon
4/10/19 Hawley
7/10/19 Hitterdal
10/9/19 Moorhead
1/8/20 Sabin